

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0794

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, IC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: REYKJAVIK 607; REYKJAVIK 630; REYKJAVIK 659

1. ON JUNE 13, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER FROM LEGAL DIVISION OF FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFED EMBOFF ON CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY IN FRG-GOI FISHERIES DISPUTE. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER REPORTED THAT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONTACTS AT THE NATO BRUSSELS MEETING AND EARLIER CONTACTS AT THE GENEVA LOS MEETING HAD LED TO A SMALL AMOUNT OF PROGRESS. THE FRG HAS SOFTENED ITS POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF "LEVEL OF FISHING EFFORT" IN EXCHANGE FOR THE GOI'S AGREEMENT
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TO RECONSIDER THE OCTOBER DRAFT AGREEMENT. ACCORDING

TO KAUFMANN-BUEHLER, THE FRG WILL ACCEPT A "LEVEL OF FISHING EFFORT" ONLY 25 AS LARGE AS PRE-DISPUTE LEVELS IF THE GOI ACCEPTS THE OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE OCTOBER DRAFT, WHICH INCLUDE THE USE OF SOME FREEZER TRAWLERS IN ICELANDIC WATERS. THE GOI HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO COME TO A DECISION BY THE END OF THIS MONTH, ALTHOUGH KAUFMANN-BUEHLER BELIEVES THAT THIS DEADLINE IS PROBABLY TOO AMBITIOUS. IN ANY CASE, THE GERMANS EXPECT AN ANSWER BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAY SEASON BEGINNING IN LATE JULY.

2. IN REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE REJECTION OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BY ICELAND IN JANUARY, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER CHARACTERIZED THE GOI ATTITUDE AS HIGHLY UNCO-OPERATIVE. THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR IN REYKJAVIK, THE FRG HAS EXTENDED SEVERAL FEELERS FOR A VISIT BY ICELANDIC FONMIN TO BONN. ON EACH OCCASION, THE GOI HAS SPURNED THESE OFFERS AND HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO DISCOURAGE ITS LOS DELEGATES FROM TALKING WITH THE GERMAN SIDE. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER ATTRIBUTES RECENT PROGRESS AT NATO MEETING TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN ICELAND WHICH MAY HAVE INCREASED GOI INTEREST IN OBTAINING ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF EC-ICELAND TARIFF AGREEMENT. NOTING THAT GERMANY'S EC PARTNERS REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GERMAN POSITION AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TARIFF AGREEMENT AT LAST WEEK'S SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS OF THE TARIFF GROUP WHICH MONITORS PROGRESS ON THESE TYPES OF AGREEMENTS, HE SPECULATED THAT GOI NOW REALIZES THAT IT MUST BE MORE FORTHCOMING IF TARIFF BENEFITS ARE TO BE OBTAINED. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER ADDED THAT THE OTHER PARTNERS GENERALLY DISCOUNT ICELAND'S THREATS TO LEAVE NATO.

3. WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFF IF RECENT ICELANDIC PRESS ATTACKS ON FRG MIGHT INDICATE THAT GOI PREPARING TO REJECT FRG PROPOSAL MADE AT NATO MEETING, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER SPECULATED THAT OUTCOME OF BRUSSELS TARIFF GROUP MEETING WAS MORE LIKELY THE CAUSE OF THORARINSSON'S OUTBURSTS SINCE FRG 'VETO' OF TARIFF AGREEMENT WAS CONTINUALLY EMPHASIZED BY THORARINSSON.
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4. LOOKING AHEAD TOWARD ICELAND'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO EXTEND ITS ECONOMIC ZONE TO 200 MILES, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM REGARDING A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND ON FRG FISHING RIGHTS. WITH THE EXPIRATION OF BRITISH AND BELGIAN FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH ICELAND IN NOVEMBER, THE GOI WILL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH ALL THREE NATIONS ON THE BASIC QUESTION

OF TRADITIONAL FISHING RIGHTS. EVEN IF THE CURRENT
FRG-GOI DISCUSSIONS REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION,
KAUFMANN-BUEHLER DOUBTS THAT SUCH A SUCCESS WILL HAVE
ANY CARRY-OVER EFFECT IN LATER NEGOTIATIONS.
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